

Introduced by Senator Chesbro

February 24, 2006

An act to add Section 399 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to uranium screening.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1720, as introduced, Chesbro. Armed Forces: uranium screening.

Existing law provides for certain rights and privileges for active members of the Armed Force, reservists, and veterans of the Armed Forces, including members of the California National Guard.

This bill would provide that an eligible member, as defined, or veteran who has returned to this state after service in combat zone and who has been assigned a risk level I or II for depleted uranium exposure, or any other member, as defined, who has reason to believe that he or she was exposed to depleted uranium during their service, shall have the right to a best practice health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium.

This bill would additionally require the Adjutant General to submit a report to the policy committees dealing with veterans affairs in the Senate and the Assembly on the scope and adequacy of military training regarding detection exposure to depleted uranium and the feasibility and cost of adding exposure training, as provided.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 399 is added to the Military and
- 2 Veterans Code, to read:

1 399. (a) On and after _____, any eligible member or veteran
2 who returns or has returned to this state after service in an area
3 designated as a combat zone by the President of the United States
4 and who has been assigned a risk level I or II for depleted
5 uranium exposure by his or her branch or service, or any other
6 member or veteran who has reason to believe that he or she was
7 exposed to depleted uranium during his or her service, shall have
8 the right to a best practice health screening test for exposure to
9 depleted uranium.

10 (b) On or before _____, the Adjutant General shall submit a
11 report to the policy committees dealing with veterans affairs in
12 the Senate and the Assembly on the scope and adequacy of
13 training received by members of the Armed Forces on detecting
14 whether their service as eligible members is likely to entail, or to
15 have entailed, exposure to depleted uranium. The report shall
16 include an assessment of the feasibility and cost of adding
17 predeployment training concerning potential exposure to
18 depleted uranium and other toxic chemical substances and the
19 precautions recommended under combat and noncombat
20 conditions while in a combat zone.

21 (c) For purposes of this section, all of the following apply:

22 (1) "Eligible member" means a member who served in the
23 Persian Gulf War, as defined in Section 101 of Title 38 of the
24 United States Code, or in an area designated as a combat zone by
25 the President of United States during Operation Enduring
26 Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

27 (2) "Member" or "member of the Armed Forces" means a
28 member of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the
29 California National Guard, who is a resident of this state.